

PreK-20 Education

Media Briefing

Florida House of Representatives

January 20, 2011

Mission of Florida's Education System

Increase the proficiency of all students within one seamless, efficient system, by providing them with the opportunity to expand their knowledge and skills through learning opportunities and research valued by students, parents, and communities, and to maintain an accountability system that measures student progress toward the following goals

- Highest student achievement
- Seamless articulation and maximum access
- Skilled workforce and economic development
- Quality efficient services

Section 1008.31, Florida Statutes

15 Years Ago

- No charter schools
- No virtual schools
- No McKay or Florida Tax Credit Scholarships
- No meaningful school accountability
- Low graduation requirements
- Low high school graduation rate
- Well below average performance in NAEP reading and math in 4th and 8th grade
- Separate and isolated higher education systems

15 Years of Reform

1995	• Public schools are graded for the first time based on student achievement.
1996	• Charter schools created as independent public schools. FCAT developed to measure student achievement.
1997	• Florida Virtual School created for grades 6-12.
1998	• Constitution revision restructures Board of Education as an appointed K-20 board. FCAT administered for the first time in grades 4, 5, 8, and 10.
1999	• A+ plan adopted, establishing A-F school letter grades, eliminating social promotion, expanding FCAT to grades 3-10, and creating the School Recognition program.
2001	• Corporate Income Tax Credit Scholarships created for low-income students. Community colleges authorized to offer baccalaureate degrees.
2002	• Class size, VPK, and Board of Governors constitutional amendments adopted.
2006	• A++ plan adopted, creating a middle school core curriculum.
2008	• High school grades expanded to include additional achievement measures.
2010	• High school graduation requirements expanded to include Biology I, Algebra II, and Chemistry or Physics.

Today in Florida

- 400+ charter schools with over 137,000 students
- 100,000+ students participating in virtual education
- 21,000+ students receiving McKay scholarships and 32,000+ receiving Florida Tax Credit Scholarships
- Schools and students held to rigorous performance expectations
- 79% high school graduation rate
- Above average performance in NAEP reading & math
- Coordinated higher education system

Recent Education Reforms

- Increased high school graduation requirements
- Strengthened high school grading requirements
- Increased standards for Bright Futures Scholarship Program awards
- Clarified the strategic relationship of colleges and state universities as integral to Florida's education and economic systems

The Good News!

Student achievement continues to grow in K12 education

- ‘Quality Counts’ national report ranks Florida 5th in the nation on state-level efforts to improve public education
- National test scores for 4th and 8th grade students show steadily-closing achievement gaps in Reading and Math
- High school student graduation rates are improving
- High school students are completing more advanced high school coursework that earns college credit

Colleges and universities rank among the largest and most productive in the region and nation

Colleges Rank:

- 1st in the region for degree and certificate production, student persistence, and graduation rates
- 2nd in the nation for production of associate degrees

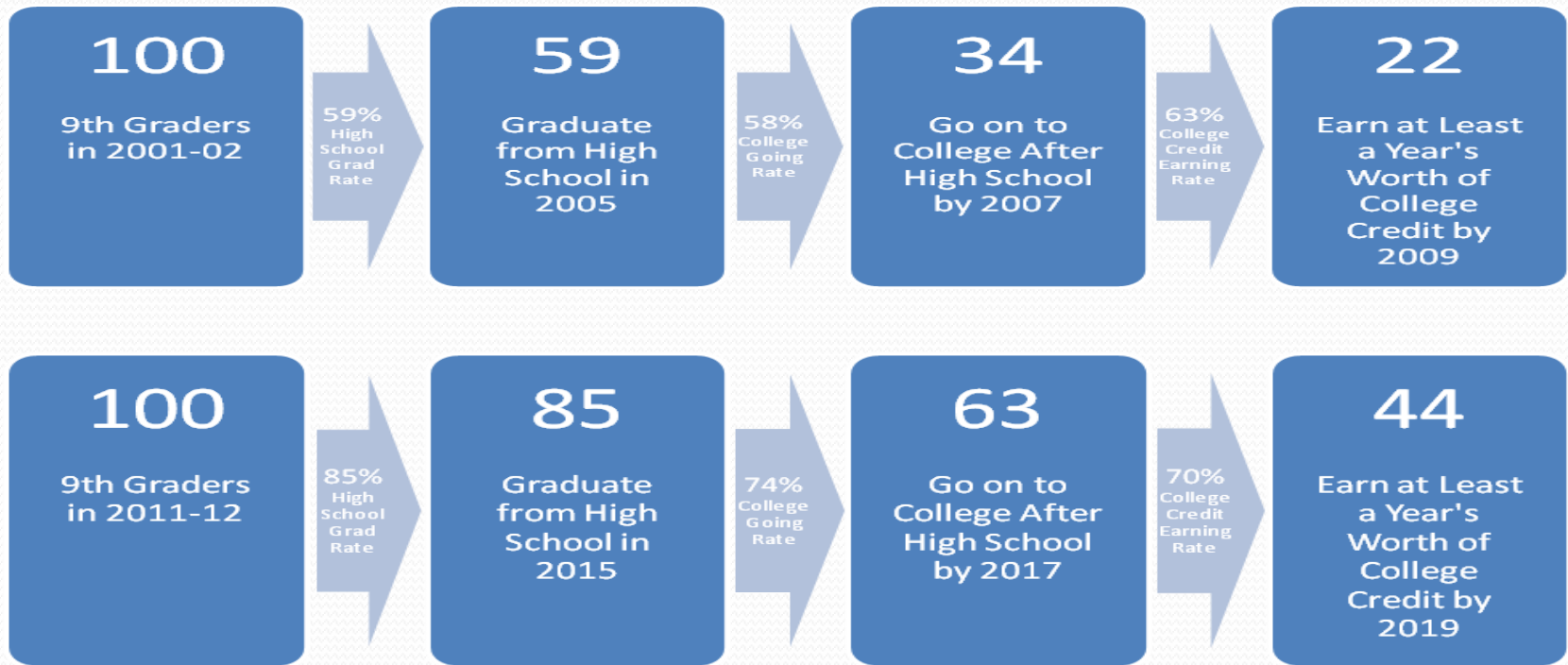
State Universities:

- Are among the largest in the nation
- Award approximately 74k degrees a year
- Expend over \$1.6B a year in R&D dollars

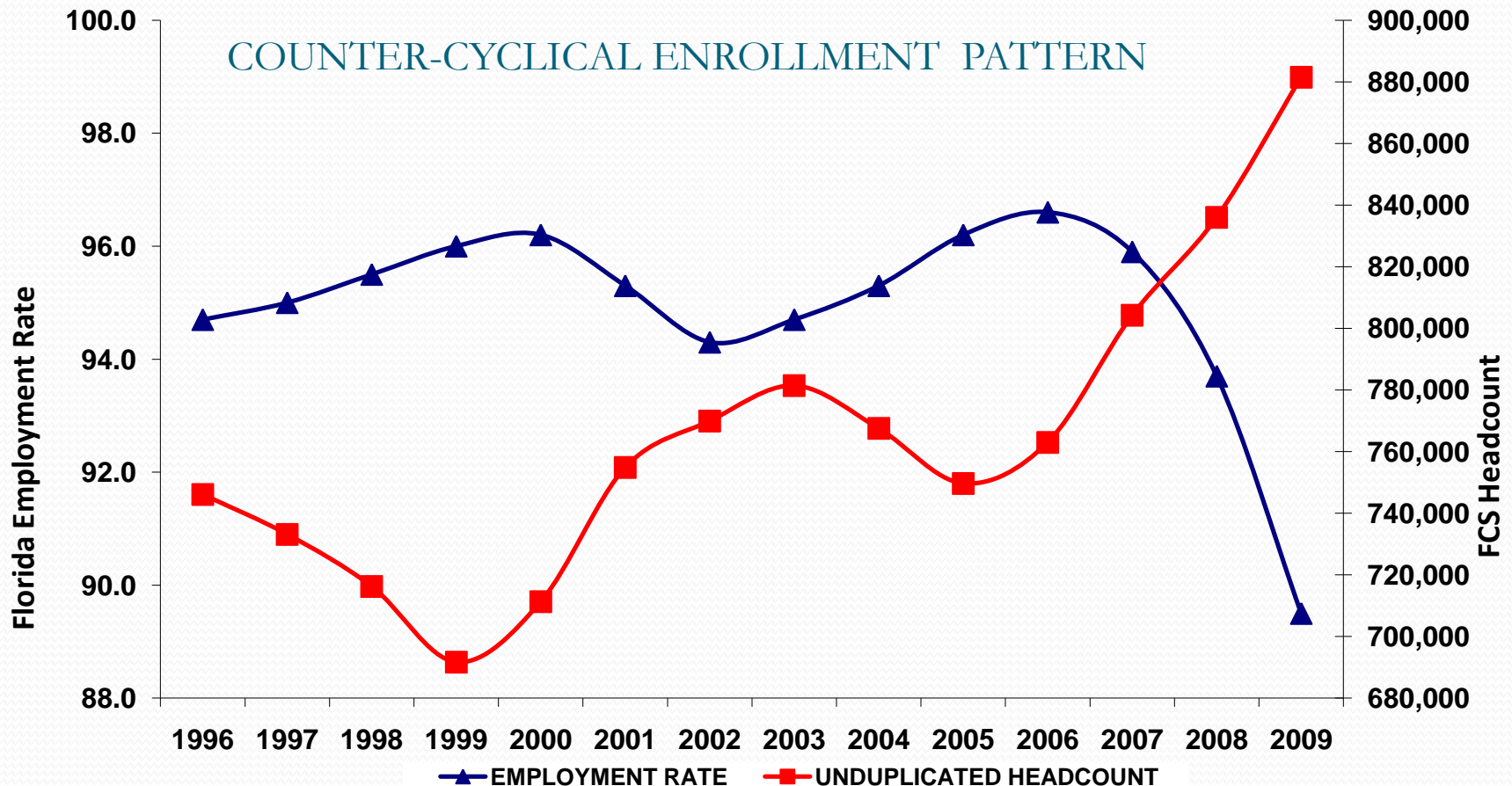
Still Have Work To Do

Goals of Florida's State Board of Education

- Lead the nation in K12 student Reading and Math proficiency
- Double the percent of students earning college credit



Address college enrollment trends and prepare students for success in jobs



Anticipated 2011 Conversations

Improving student performance through quality classroom instruction

- Research continues to link student performance to the quality of classroom instruction
- **“Race to the Top” (RTTT)** is a \$700 million, four-year federal grant:
 - ❖ Adopt college and career-ready standards and assessments
 - ❖ Improve PreK-20 data systems
 - ❖ Reform teacher and principal employment policies
 - ❖ Turn around low-performing schools
- Many other states adopted policies related to ‘Teacher Quality’

Other potential 2011 education policy conversations:

- Expanding quality k12 school choice options for parents seeking the best learning environment for their children
- Exploring alternative methods of instructional delivery (like digital/virtual education)
- Improving student access to college and credentials that lead to personal and economic growth

Thank you.